

## Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04

NSC-05 SS-15 /084 W

----- 031741

P R 061850Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8867

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 395

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

USCINCSO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 6191

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: PBOR, BH, GT, UK

SUBJ: BELIZE: GUATEMALAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. MORNING PRESS NOVEMBER 6 GAVE WIDE COVERAGE TO BELIZE DEVELOPMENTS, PARTICULARLY BRITISH DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS IN BELIZE AND INTRODUCTION OF BRITISH-SPONSORED UNGA RESOLUTION. WHILE YESTERDAY'S STORIES WERE BASED ON BRIEF GERMAN AND FRENCH WIRE SERVICE REPORTS FROM LONDON, TODAY'S INCLUDE LONG AP DISPATCHES FROM LONDON, BELIZE, AND NEW YORK.

2. PROMINENT ATTENTION ALSO GIVEN TO COMMENTS TO NEWSMEN BY MOD LUCAS. MOST HEADLINES PLAYED UP HIS STATEMENT THAT "ARMY IS READY TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM

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PRESIDENT AND COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES FOR

DEFENSE OF ANY PART OF OUR TERRITORY." BUT HE ALSO SAID THAT GUATEMALAN ARMY MOVEMENTS OF WHICH UK HAD COMPLAINED IN ITS PRESS RELEASE WERE NORMAL TROOP ROTATIONS MADE EVERY THREE MONTHS, "WHICH NATURALLY CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS REASON FOR ENGLAND TO SEND REINFORCEMENTS. (BRITISH ACTION) SEEMS MORE LIKELY TO REVEAL SOME FEAR (ON THEIR PART) AND I'M GLAD THEY DON'T UNDERESTIMATE US." HE QUESTIONED WHETHER UK HAD REALLY SENT IN HARRIER AIRCRAFT, "BUT IF IT IS CORRECT THAT THEY BROUGHT IN THAT TYPE OF PLANE, THAT WOULD ONLY DEMONSTRATE THAT THEY ARE REALLY FRIGHTENED." LUCAS CONCLUDED THAT BOTH GOG AND UK "ARE AWAITING DECISION OF UN" ON GUATEMALAN RESOLUTION.

3. LA NACION QUOTED MAJOR PORTION OF BRITISH NOTE TO FONOFF (GUATEMALA 6147), WHICH APPARENTLY WAS GIVEN OR RED TO REPORTERS BY FONMIN MOLINA. BOTH MAJOR MORNING PAPERS CARRIED STORIES ABOUT AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 5 MEETING BETWEEN U.S. AMBASSADOR AND FONMIN. PRESS QUOTED FONMIN AS SAYING THAT AMBASSADOR HAD ASKED TO CALL "IN ORDER TO DISCUSS GUATEMALAN POSITION ON BELIZE AND THE TRUE MAGNITUDE OF THE PRESENT SITUATION." MOLINA DECLINED TO GO INTO SPECIFICS OF CONVERSATION.

4. LIST OF 45 CO-SPONSORS OF UK RES MADE AVAILABLE TO PRESS, PRESUMABLY BY FONOFF WHICH HAD IT FROM GUATEMALAN UN DEL, AND PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 6. FACT THAT CUBA IS ONLY LA COUNTRY AMONG SPONSORS WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN HEADLINES AND ELICITED STRONGLY WORDED EDITORIAL IN LA NACION, NEWSPAPER WITH GOOD GOG CONNECTIONS. NACION SAID CUBA, BECAUSE OF OWN LACK OF INTERNAL DEMOCRACY, "LACKS MORAL AUTHORITY TO SPEAK OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF BELIZE." "WHAT CASTRO REALLY SEEKS IN BELIZE, NEVERTHELESS, IS NOT ITS INDEPENDENCE. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA IS TRYING TO CREATE OR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IS A MILITARY-POLITICAL CRISIS IN THE CARIBBEAN WHICH WOULD ALLOW IT TO STICK IN ITS RED HANDS. WHAT A DELICIOUS OPPORTUNITY AN ARMED CONFRONTATION IN THE REGION WOULD GIVE FOR CASTRO TO SEND 'VOLUNTEERS' TO SUPPOSEDLY HELP UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE. THE 'VOLUNTEERS' WOULD APPEAR AT ANY MOMENT BEHEADING PRICE AND THE BRITISH GOVERNOR, TO INSTALL IN BELIZE A 'POPULAR REPUBLIC' LIKE THE ONE IN CUBA, WITH ITS NEW PREMIER ELECTED BY SOVIET TANKS, ARMED BY MOSCOW, AND WITH CASTRO NEARBY AS PROTECTOR." EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT "BRITISH ARE CONTRIBUTING TO CREATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN VIETNAM.  
MELOY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, UNGA RESOLUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 AUG 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2004 by ElyME>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BELIZE: GUATEMALAN PRESS COVERAGE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PFOR, GT, BH, UK, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006